

No. 13039

MULTILATERAL

Charter of the Islamic Conference. Adopted by the Third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers at Djidda, on 4 March 1972

Authentic texts: Arabic, English and French.

Registered by the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference, acting on behalf of the Parties, on 1 February 1974.

MULTILATÉRAL

Charte de la Conférence islamique. Adoptée par la Troisième Conférence islamique des Ministres des affaires étrangères, à Djedda, le 4 mars 1972

Textes authentiques : arabe, anglais et français.

Enregistrée par le Secrétariat général de la Conférence islamique, agissant au nom des Parties, le 1^{er} février 1974.

CHARTER¹ OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

IN THE NAME OF GOD THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE

The Representatives of:

The Kingdom of Afghanistan, Algerian Democratic and Popular Republic, State of the United Arab Emirates, State of Bahrain, Republic of Chad, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Indonesia, Iran, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, State of Kuwait, Republic of Lebanon, Libyan Arab Republic, Malaysia, Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of Niger, Oman Sultanate, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, State of Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Senegal, Republic of Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Somalia, Democratic Republic of Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Republic of Tunisia, Republic of Turkey, Yemen Arab Republic, meeting in Jeddah from 14 to 18 Moharram, 1392 AH (29 February-4 March, 1972),

Referring to the Conference of the Kings and Heads of State and Government of Islamic countries held in Rabat between 9 and 12 Rajab, 1389 (22-25 September, 1969);

Recalling the First Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Jeddah from 15 to 17 Moharram, 1390 (23-25 March, 1970) and the Second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Karachi from 27 to 29 Shawal, 1390 (26-28 December, 1970);

Convinced that their common belief constitutes a strong factor for *rapprochement* and solidarity between Islamic people;

Resolved to preserve Islamic spiritual, ethical, social and economic values, which will remain one of the important factors of achieving progress for mankind;

¹ Came into force on 28 February 1973, i.e. the date by which the following 16 States, representing a simple majority of the States participating on the Third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, had deposited their instrument of ratification with the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference, in accordance with article XIV:

State	Date of deposit of the instrument	State	Date of deposit of the instrument
Saudi Arabia	29 Mar. 1972	Qatar	24 Oct. 1972
Bahrain	29 Jun. 1972	Pakistan	29 Oct. 1972
Somalia	12 Jul. 1972	Jordan	19 Dec. 1972
Sudan	31 Aug. 1972	Oman	19 Dec. 1972
United Arab Emirates	3 Sep. 1972	Egypt	20 Dec. 1972
Malaysia	5 Sep. 1972	Libyan Arab Republic	7 Jan. 1973
Guinea	18 Sep. 1972	Afghanistan	2 Feb. 1973
Morocco	19 Sep. 1972	Niger	28 Feb. 1973

Subsequently, the following States deposited their instrument of ratification with the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference, to take effect on the date of such deposit:

State	Date of deposit of the instrument
Mali	12 Mar. 1973
Tunisia	12 Mar. 1973
Iran	9 Apr. 1973
(Confirming the declarations and reservations formulated on the occasion of the adoption of the Charter.)	
Kuwait	5 Jun. 1973
Senegal	3 Jan. 1974

Reaffirming their commitment to the U.N. Charter and fundamental Human Rights, the purposes and principles of which provide the basis for fruitful cooperation amongst all people;

Determined to consolidate the bonds of the prevailing brotherly and spiritual friendship among their people, and to protect their freedom, and the common legacy of their civilization founded particularly on the principles of justice, toleration and non-discrimination;

In their endeavour to increase human well-being, progress and freedom everywhere and resolved to unite their efforts in order to secure universal peace which ensures security, freedom and justice for their people and all people throughout the world;

Approve the present Charter of the Islamic Conference:

Article I. THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

The member States do hereby establish the organization of "The Islamic Conference."

Article II. OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES

A) *Objectives*

The objectives of the Islamic Conference shall be:

1. to promote Islamic solidarity among member States;
2. to consolidate co-operation among member States in the economic, social, cultural, scientific and other vital fields of activities, and to carry out consultations among member States in international organizations;
3. to endeavour to eliminate racial segregation, discrimination and to eradicate colonialism in all its forms;
4. to take necessary measures to support international peace and security founded on justice;
5. to co-ordinate efforts for the safeguard of the Holy Places and support of the struggle of the people of Palestine, and help them to regain their rights and liberate their land;
6. to strengthen the struggle of all Moslem peoples with a view to safeguarding their dignity, independence and national rights; and
7. to create a suitable atmosphere for the promotion of cooperation and understanding among member States and other countries.

B) *Principles*

The member States decide and undertake that, in order to realize the objectives mentioned in the previous paragraph, they shall be inspired and guided by the following principles:

1. Total equality between member States;
2. Respect of the right of self-determination, and non-interference in the domestic affairs of member States;

3. Respect of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of each member State;
4. Settlement of any conflict that may arise by peaceful means such as negotiation, mediation, reconciliation or arbitration;
5. Abstention from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity, national unity or political independence of any member State.

Article III. CONFERENCE BODIES

The Islamic Conference is composed of:

1. the Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government;
2. the Conference of Foreign Ministers, and
3. the General Secretariat and subsidiary organs.

Article IV. CONFERENCE OF KINGS AND HEADS OF STATE

The Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government is the supreme authority in the organization and holds its meetings whenever the interest of Moslem Nations warrants it to consider issues of vital concern to the Moslem world and to co-ordinate the policy of the organization accordingly.

Article V. CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

Conference Sessions

1. (a) The Islamic Conference shall be convened once a year or when the need arises at the level of Ministers of Foreign Affairs or their officially accredited representatives. The sessions shall be held in any one of the member States;

(b) An extraordinary session may be convened at the request of any member State or at the request of the Secretary-General, if approved by two-thirds of the member States. The request may be circulated to all member States in order to obtain the required approval; and

(c) The Conference of Foreign Ministers has the right to recommend the convening of a Conference of the Heads of State or Heads of Government. The approval can be obtained for such a Conference by circulating the request to all member States.

2. The Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers shall be held for the following purposes:

- (a) To consider the means of implementing the general policy of the Conference;
- (b) To review the progress in the implementation of resolutions adopted at previous sessions;
- (c) To adopt resolutions on matters of common interest in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Conference set forth in this Charter;
- (d) To discuss the report of the Financial Committee and approve the budget of the Secretariat-General;

- (e) 1. The Conference appoints the Secretary-General;
- 2. The Conference appoints three Assistants to the Secretary-General on recommendation of the Secretary-General; and
- 3. In recommending his Assistants, the Secretary-General shall take into due consideration their competence, integrity and dedication to the Charter's objectives as well as equitable geographical distribution.
- (f) To fix the date and venue of the coming Conference of Foreign Ministers; and
- (g) To consider any issue affecting one or more of the member States whenever a request to that effect is made, with a view to taking appropriate measures in that respect.
 - 3. Resolutions or recommendations of the Conference of Foreign Ministers shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority.
 - 4. Two-thirds of the member States in any session of the Conference of Foreign Ministers shall form the quorum.
 - 5. The Conference of Foreign Ministers decides the basic procedure which it follows and which could be followed for the Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government, appoints a chairman for each session. This procedure is also applied in subsidiary organs set up by the Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government and also by the Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Article VI. THE SECRETARIAT-GENERAL

- 1. The General Secretariat shall be headed by the Secretary-General appointed by the Conference for a period of two years beginning from the date of his appointment; he may be re-appointed for another period of two years only.
- 2. The Secretary-General shall appoint the staff of the General Secretariat from among nationals of member States, paying due regard to their competence and integrity, and in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution.
- 3. In the performance of their duties, the Secretary-General, his Assistants, or the staff of the General Secretariat, shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or authority other than the Conference. They shall refrain from taking any action that may be detrimental to their position as international officials responsible only to the Conference. Member States undertake to respect this quality and the nature of their responsibilities, and shall not seek to influence them in any way in the discharge of their responsibilities.
- 4. The Secretariat-General shall secure communications among member States and offer facilities for consultations and exchange of views and the dissemination of information that have common significance to these States.
- 5. The headquarters of the Secretariat-General shall be in Jeddah pending the liberation of "Bait UI Maqdis" (Jerusalem).
- 6. The General Secretariat shall follow up the implementation of the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference and report back to the Conference. It shall also directly supply the member States with the working papers

and memoranda through appropriate channels, within the framework of the resolutions and recommendations of the Conference.

7. The General Secretariat shall prepare the meetings of the Conference through close collaboration with the host States on administrative and organizational matters.

8. In the light of the agreement on immunities and privileges to be approved by the Conference:

- (a) The Conference shall enjoy, in the member States, such legal capacity, immunities and privileges as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfilment of its objectives.
- (b) Representatives of member States shall enjoy such immunities and privileges as may be necessary for the exercise of their functions related to the Conference.
- (c) The staff of the Conference shall enjoy the immunities and privileges necessary for the performance of their duties as decided upon by the Conference.

Article VII. FINANCE

1. All expenses on the administration and activities of the Secretariat shall be borne by member States according to their national incomes.

2. The Secretariat shall administer its financial affairs according to the rules of procedure approved by the Conference of Foreign Ministers.

3. A Standing Financial Committee shall be formed by the Conference from the accredited representatives of the participating States, and shall meet at the Headquarters of the General Secretariat. This Committee shall in conjunction with the Secretary-General, prepare and supervise the budget of the General Secretariat according to the regulations approved by the Conference of Foreign Ministers.

Article VIII. MEMBERSHIP

The Organization of the Islamic Conference is composed of the States which participated in the Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government held in Rabat and the Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Jeddah, Karachi and signatory to this Charter. Every Muslim state is eligible to join the Islamic Conference on submitting an application expressing its desire and preparedness to adopt this Charter. The application shall be deposited with the General Secretariat, to be brought before the Foreign Ministers' Conference at its first meeting after the submission of the application. Membership shall take effect as of the time of approval of the Conference by a two-thirds majority of the Conference members.

Article IX. ISLAMIC ORGANIZATIONS

The General Secretariat shall act within the framework of the present Charter and with the approval of the Conference to consolidate relations between the Islamic Conference and the Islamic organizations of International character and

to realize cooperation in the service of the Islamic objectives approved by this Charter.

Article X. WITHDRAWAL

1. Any member State may withdraw from the Islamic Conference by sending a written notification to the Secretariat-General, to be communicated to all member States.

2. The State applying for withdrawal shall be bound by its obligations until the end of the fiscal year during which the application of withdrawal is submitted. It shall also settle any other financial obligation due to the Conference.

Article XI. AMENDMENT

Amendment to this Charter shall be made, if approved and ratified by a two-thirds majority of the member States.

Article XII. INTERPRETATION

Any dispute that may arise in the interpretation, application or implementation of any article in the present Charter shall be settled peacefully, and in all cases through consultations, negotiations, reconciliation or arbitration.

Article XIII. LANGUAGE

Languages of the Conference shall be Arabic, English and French.

Article XIV. RATIFICATION

This Charter shall be approved or ratified by member States in the organization of the Islamic Conference in accordance with the current procedure in their respective countries. This Charter goes into effect as of the date of deposition of the instruments of ratification with the General Secretariat by a simple majority of the States participating in the Third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Jeddah from 14 to 18 Moharram 1392 (29 February to 4 March 1972).

DECLARATIONS and RESERVA-
TIONS formulated on the occasion
of the adoption of the Charter

DÉCLARATIONS et RÉSERVES
formulées lors de l'adoption de la
Charte

CHAD

TCHAD

[ARABIC TEXT — TEXTE ARABE]

«ان وفد تشاد لدى مؤتمر وزراء الخارجية الاسلامي الثالث يسجل
تحفظه بشأن اقرار ميثاق المؤتمر نظرا الى ان جمهورية تشاد دولة علمانية •
ومع ذلك فان اقرار الميثاق والتصديق عليه يرجع أولا وأخيرا الى
مجلس الأمة ، لأنه يمثل مسألة دستورية » •

“Considering the secular nature of the Republic of Chad, the Delegation of Chad to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers registers reservation concerning the adoption of the Charter of the Conference.

“However, due to the fact that this is a problem which touches on the Constitution of the Republic of Chad, the adoption and ratification of the Charter will be up to the National Assembly.”

« La délégation du Tchad à la 3^e Conférence Islamique des Ministres des affaires étrangères formule ses réserves en ce qui concerne les résolutions de la Conférence, vu la laïcité de la République du Tchad.

« Toutefois, du fait que c'est un problème qui touche la Constitution qui régit la République du Tchad, il appartiendra à l'Assemblée nationale de décider son adoption et sa ratification. »

INDONESIA

INDONÉSIE

[ARABIC TEXT — TEXTE ARABE]

“أقترح رئيس وفد في البيان الذي ألقاه يوم الأربعاء الماضي أن يؤسس المؤتمر على شكل مجمع تعاون وتشاور حيث جميع الدول الإسلامية تستطيع أن تشترك اشتراكاً كاملاً . وقد أبدى للمؤتمرين عدة أسباب تأييدا لاقتراحه . سوف لا أكررها هنا . لقد قرر المؤتمر بحكمته الآن أن يؤسس المؤتمر الإسلامي كمنظمة .

ان جمهورية أندونيسيا دستوريا ليست مؤسسة على دين معين . ولهذا فان من الصعب جدا على جمهورية أندونيسيا أن تربط نفسها رسميا — ودون تحفظات — بمنظمة أو تجمع يقوم على دين معين . وعلى ذلك وعلى الرغم أن جمهورية أندونيسيا ليست في هذه المرحلة في وضع يمكنها من الانضمام كعضو عامل فانها ستستمر باشتراكها في أعمال المؤتمر بصفة دولة مشاركة ، الى الحد الأقصى الذي يتسق ودستورها وعلاوة على ذلك فان وفدي يعتقد بأن قرارات المؤتمر يجب أن تتخذ بالاجماع وان لها حكم التوصية .”

“In his statement last Wednesday, the Chairman of my Delegation proposed that the Conference be instituted as a forum of co-operation and consultation where all Moslem countries will be in a position to fully participate. He gave this Assembly several reasons in support of his proposal. I shall not repeat them here. The Conference in its wisdom has now decided that the Islamic Conference shall be constituted as an *Organisation*.

« Dans l'allocution qu'il a prononcée le mercredi dernier le chef de ma délégation a suggéré que la Conférence soit constituée sous forme d'un organe d'entraide et de conseil de façon à ce que tous les pays musulmans puissent y participer entièrement en donnant aux membres de la Conférence plusieurs causes pour appuyer sa suggestion. Je ne reviendrai pas sur cela. La Conférence a décidé que la Conférence Islamique soit constituée comme une *organisation*,

“The Republic of Indonesia is constitutionally not based on any specific religion. It is, therefore, very difficult for the Republic of Indonesia to associate itself formally—and without reservations—with an organisation or grouping which is based on a specific religion. Accordingly, while at this stage not being in a position to associate itself as a full member, the Republic of Indo-

« Statutairement la République de l'Indonésie n'est pas constituée sur une religion déterminée. Il est donc difficile à l'Indonésie de s'attacher officiellement, et sans réserve, à une organisation ou un organe basé sur une religion déterminée. Pour cela, et malgré que l'Indonésie, dans cette phase, n'est pas en position lui permettant l'intégration comme membre effectif, elle continuera

nesia will continue its participation in the work of the Conference in the quality of a participating Country, to the full extent it is consistent with its Constitution. Furthermore, my Delegation believes that decisions of the Conference are to be taken by consensus and have a recommendative authority."

à participer aux activités de la Conférence en qualité de pays membre. En plus de cela, ma délégation pense que les résolutions de la Conférence doivent être prises à l'unanimité, et qu'elle a le droit de vote. »

IRAN

IRAN

[ARABIC TEXT — TEXTE ARABE]

١٤ - ميثاق المؤتمر الاسلامي .

أ - نظرا الى الغاء المادة ١٢ المقصود بها ان تحدد بعبارات واضحة انه لا يكون هنالك تناقض فيما بين الميثاق الحالي وبين ميثاق الامم المتحدة ، وعلى اساس نص المادة ١٠٣ من ميثاق الامم المتحدة فان حكومة ايران ترغب في ان تؤكد بان أى التزام قد تتولى القيام به نتيجة للتصديق على ميثاق المؤتمر الاسلامي يجب أن يكون خاضعا لا مخالفا لحقوقها والتزاماتها بموجب ميثاق الامم المتحدة . وفي حالة وجود تعارض بين ميثاق المؤتمر الاسلامي وبين ميثاق الامم المتحدة فان التزاماتها بموجب ميثاق الامم المتحدة تكون لها الأولوية .

ب - المقررات والتوصيات التي قد يتخذها المؤتمر على اساس مبادئ وأهداف المؤتمر كما أدرجت في الميثاق الحالي تكون مقبولة ما دام أنها تتسق وتتنسج ضمن نطاق توصيات ومقررات أجهزة الامم المتحدة المختصة .

٢ - مقررات وتوصيات مؤتمر وزراء الخارجية الاسلامي الثالث .

ان التحفظ المذكور في الفقرة (ب) أعلاه ينطبق على كافة المقررات والتوصيات المتخذة من قبل مؤتمر وزراء الخارجية الاسلامي الثالث .

“1. *Charter of the Islamic Conference*

a) In view of the deletion of article XII designed to establish in clear terms that there shall exist no conflict between the present Charter and the Charter of the United Nations, and basing itself on the provision of Article 103 of the Charter of the United Nations, the Government of Iran wishes to confirm that any obligation that it might assume as a result of the ratification of the Charter of the Islamic Conference shall be subject to, and not in variance with, its rights and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. In the case of a conflict between the Charter of the Islamic Conference and the Charter of the United Nations, its obligations under the latter shall prevail.

b) Decisions and recommendations that may be adopted by the Conference on the basis of the principles and objectives of the Conference as inscribed in the present Charter, shall be acceptable in so far as they are consistent with, and fall within the scope of the recommendations and decisions of the appropriate organs of the United Nations.

“2. *Decisions and recommendations of the Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers*

The reservation mentioned in (b) above also applies to all decisions and recommendations adopted by the Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.”

« 1. *La Charte de la Conférence Islamique*

a) Vu l'abrogation de l'article 12 visant à éviter toute contradiction entre la Charte actuelle et celle des Nations Unies, et sur les bases du texte de l'Article 103 de la Charte des Nations Unies, le Gouvernement d'Iran désire préciser que toute obligation qui lui incombe résultant de l'approbation de la Charte de la Conférence Islamique, doit compatir et non aller contre ses droits et ses obligations conformément à la Charte des Nations Unies. En cas de différence entre la Charte de la Conférence Islamique et celle des Nations Unies, la priorité sera donnée à ses obligations conformément à la Charte des Nations Unies.

b) Les décisions et recommandations qui seraient prises par la Conférence sur la base des fondements et des buts de la Conférence tels qu'ils figurent dans la Charte actuelle seront admissibles tant qu'ils sont conformes et ne sortent pas du domaine des recommandations et décisions des organes des Nations Unies.

« 2. *Décisions et Recommandations de la 3^e Conférence Islamique des Ministres des affaires étrangères*

La réserve formulée en b ci-dessus indiquée s'applique à toutes les décisions et recommandations prises par la 3^e Conférence Islamique des Ministres des affaires étrangères. »

LEBANON

LIBAN

[ARABIC TEXT — TEXTE ARABE]

• أخذ لبنان علماً بميثاق المؤتمر الإسلامي .

يتحفظ لبنان حول جميع أحكام هذا الميثاق التي تتعارض مع دستوره وقوانينه وواقعه السياسي وأنظمته .

كما أنه يبدى نفس التحفظ بما يتعلق بوكالة الأنباء الإسلامية الدولية لجهة نشاطاتها المقبلة التي قد تتعارض مع دستوره وقوانينه وواقعه السياسي .

يعتبر لبنان جميع القرارات والتوصيات والبلاغات الصادرة عن المؤتمر نافذة بالنسبة إليه ، بقدر قبولها صراحة من قبل الحكومة اللبنانية وإبلاغ هذا القبول رسمياً إلى الأمانة العامة .

“Lebanon expresses its reservations to all provisions which are contradictory with its constitution, law, regulations and political realities.

“Moreover, Lebanon expresses the same reservations in relation to the International Islamic News Agency, concerning its future activities which may be contradictory with Lebanon’s Constitution, laws and political realities.

“All resolutions, recommendations and communications emanating from the Conference will be valid as far as they are accepted explicitly by the Lebanese Government and upon official notification of this acceptance to the General Secretariat.”

« Le Liban formule ses réserves quant à toutes les dispositions de la Charte qui sont en contradiction avec sa Constitution, ses lois, ses règlements et ses réalités politiques.

« De plus le Liban émet les mêmes réserves en ce qui concerne l’Agence Islamique internationale d’Information, en ce qui concerne ses activités futures qui seraient en contradiction avec sa Constitution, ses lois, et ses réalités politiques.

« Toutes les résolutions, recommandations et communiqués émanant de la Conférence seront applicables dans la mesure de leur acceptation expresse par le Gouvernement libanais et après signification officielle de cette acceptation au Secrétariat général. »

TURKEY

TURQUIE

[ARABIC TEXT — TEXTE ARABE]

” في الصياغة الحالية لمسودة الميثاق فاننا على يقين من أن الوضع الدستوري لعدد من المشتركين مثلنا نحن سوف يؤخذ بعين الاعتبار . . . وحين يكسب الميثاق صيغته النهائية فان وفدى سوف يهتم بملاحظة ذلك ويقدمه الى حكومتى لدراسة أدق بالنسبة الى أى مدى نستطيع دستوريا أن نستجيب للالتزامات المالية وغيرها من الالتزامات التي تتولد منها . . . أما بالنسبة للمقررات والتوصيات والبلاغات الصادرة عن المؤتمر فاننى أحب أن أشير الى التحفظات التي أبدتها هذا الوفد أثناء المؤتمرات السابقة في الرباط وجدة وكراتشي ” .

“In the present work of drafting the Charter we trust that the constitutional position of a number of participants like ourselves will be taken into consideration . . . When the Charter takes its final shape, my Delegation will take note of it and will submit it to my Government for a closer examination as to what degree we may constitutionally comply with the obligations financial and otherwise, which will devolve from it . . . As for the Resolutions, recommendations and communications made by the Conference, I would like to refer to the reservations made by this Delegation during the previous Conferences of Rabat, Jeddah and Karachi.”

« Dans la forme actuelle de la Charte nous sommes certains que la situation statutaire de plusieurs des participants comme nous sera prise en considération. Lorsque la Charte aura pris sa forme finale, ma délégation s’y intéressera et la présentera à mon Gouvernement pour étude plus détaillée pour savoir jusqu’où nous pouvons tenir les obligations financières et autres conformément à notre Statut. Quant aux décisions, recommandations et communiqués pris par la Conférence, je voudrais signaler la réserve formulée par cette délégation au cours des précédentes conférences à Rabat, Djeddah et Karachi. »